

ARTICLES

to be enquired of, by

the Church-wardens and
Swornemen, within the Archdea-
conrie of Worcester,

In the visitation of the right

worshipfull WILLIAM

SVVADDON,

Doctor of Divinitie, Archdeacon of

Worcester. ANNO DOM.

1615.

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The tenour of the Oath to be
miniftred to all and euery of the Church-
wardens and Sidermen or Affiftants
in the faid Vifitation.

Yow, and euery of you fhall fwear by
Almightie GOD, that all fauour, feare,
and affection, and all other finifter cor-
ruption whatfoeuer, fet afide, vpon due
confideration of thefe Articles giuen you in charge,
you will make a true, plaine, perfect, and particular
anfwere and prefentment in writing to the fame Ar-
ticles, and to euery branch and part thereof, presen-
ting all and euery offendours and offences therein
mentioned, fo as may ftand with the glory of God,
the difcharge of your Confciencces, and the iurifdi-
ction of the Ecclefiafticall Court: wherein you fhall
deale fincerely, faithfully, and vprightly as before
GOD; So helpe you GOD in CHRIST IESVS.

A Note of Directions.

THe old Church-wardens and Sidemen of e-
uery Parish Church, and Chappell, are to
ioyne together in appearance and present-
ment vpon the Articles deliuered them at the last
Visitation; and the Minister also may ioyne in present-
ment with them, if they will: or otherwise the Minister
may present alone. And the new elected Churchwar-
dens and Sidemen are to appeare, and to take their
oathes, and to exhibite their presentments afterwards
when they shalbe assigned, as by the 118. and 119. Ca-
non is required. The presentments to be made, are to
be plainly and particularly set downe to answere euery
part and branch of euery seuerall Article following, and
to bee subscribed and testified vnder the Handes and
Markes of all and singular the presentors.

2 The Proprietaries, Parsons, Vicars, Curates, and
Sequestrators of Ecclesiasticall Benefices, and their re-
spectiue Farmers, and all Schoolemasters, Vthers, and
Vnder-schoolemasters, &c. of, or within euery Parish,
Church, and Chappell, are also to appeare, and to ex-
hibite their Letters of orders, Institutions, and Induci-
ons, and all other their Dispensations, Licences, or Fa-
culties whatsoeuer; not being formerly exhibited in
any Visitation of the moderne Archdeacon aforesayd,
now visiting. And they are also to make reall payment
of all such Procurations and Synodals, and other Du-
ties as are respectiuely due and payable by euery of
them seuerally in this Visitation.



ARTICLES, Concerning Church and Churchyard.

Wether is your Church, and Chancell in all respects well and sufficiently repayred, and kept sweet and cleane: Have you therein the ten Commandments, the Articles of the beliefe, and other Godly sentences, fairly written: The English Bible in the largest Volume, of the last and New Edition, authorized by His Maiesties speciall Commandement, and appoyued to be read in Churches: The Bookes of Common prayer, the two volumes of Homilies, and all other Bookes requisite, a seemely Pulpit, a convenient Seate for the Minister at Prayers, a large and comely Surplesse whole and vntorne:

2 Have you in your said Church, a strong Chest for Almes, with a hole in the top, and three lockes and keyes thereto: Is the money therein put, employed to the use of the Poore:

3 Have you a Register of Christnings, Weddings, and Burials, in a Booke of Parchment, duely kept in a Chest with three Lockes and Keyes:

4 Hath any man pulled downe or vntouered any Church, Chancell, Chappell, Vetterie, or Church-house, in part, or in all:

5 Are your Bels, Belkopes, and Clocke, in good repayre, and well ordered: Is your Churchyard wellfenced and decently kept: Is it not profaned with fighting, brawling, chiding, gaming, dancing, playing, or with unlawfull Cattell, or otherwise; and how, and by whome, and in whose default:

Ministers and Curates.

6 Is your Minister a licensed Preacher, doeth he diligently preach sound Doctrine, reuerently administer the holy Sacraments, and for matters of gouernement, seriously teach and maintaine the Kings Supremacie vnder God within His Maiesties Dominions, ouer all persons, and in causes as well Ecclesiasticall as Ciuill, and the abolishing of all foraine Power:

7 Hath your Minister more Benefices then one: if two, or more,
doth

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Doth he reside vpon one of them himselfe, and maintaine a licentied Preacher on the other : If he hath but one, is hee resident, and dwelling there vpon, is hee painefull in his vocation, of sober and good conuersation, and giuen to hospitalitie :

8 Doth your Minister vse decentie of Appoynt, as wel in the Church as else where : And in time of diuine prayer and administration of the Sacraments, doth he vse to weare the Surplesse ; and if he be a Graduate, such a Hood as is agreeable to his calling :

9 Is your Minister a peacemaker, and no sower of discord, or is he suspected, famed, or noted of any nozious crime ; or giueth hee any ill example : or do any Ministers with you forsake their callings :

10 Doth any preach in your Parish, that refuseth to conforme himself to the lawes, ordinances, and rites of the Church of England :

11 Hath your Minister a Curate, and how is hee licensed ; doth hee serue two Cures, and doth hee bid the Fasting dayes ; and Holy dayes, commanded and allowed :

12 If your Minister be not a Preacher allowed, doth hee procure monthly Sermones ; and when there is no Sermon, doth he read an Homily ; doth he take vpon him to expound any text of Scripture :

13 What Preachers haue come from any other place and preached in your Parish ; haue you their names written in a booke kept for that purpose ; hath such Preacher subscribed his name thereto, and set downe the day when he preached, and by whom Licensed :

14 Hath your Minister obtained his Benefice by any Simonicall compact eyther directly or indirectly :

15 Hath any of your Parish, or of any other Parish, vntrewetly vsed your Minister, layed violent hands on him, or disgraced his office, and function, by word or deed :

Diuine Service.

16 Is diuine Service in due time on Sundayes, Holydayes, and at other times appoynted, reuerently sayd or sung in your Church or Chappell, with the Letany, on Wednesdayes, and Frydayes ; and all other rites and ceremonies, according to the prescript forme of Common prayer in the Communion Booke :

17 Whether doth any not being licensed (or any not ordered at least for a Deacon) say Common prayer openly in your Church or Chappell :

18 Doe any Pen (young or old) vse to weare their Bares in the Church or Chappell, in time of diuine Service ; or are there any that

behaue

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behave themselves disorderly in the Church, Teappell, or Church-
yard, or any disturbers of diuine Service or Sermons?

19. Whether doe any Alemales (or others in your Parish) suffer
any drinking, or gaming in their houses on Sundayes or Holydayes,
especially in time of diuine Service, or Sermons?

20. Whether any in your Parish upon the Saboth dayes, or Holy-
dayes, doe vse cheere Trade, or doe any other worke or labour, as Brew-
ing, Baking, Mashing, or such like, or doe open their Shoppes for sale
of wares upon those dayes, or doe hedge, ditch, carry, or make burdens
by themselves, their Seruants, Horses, or other Cattel whatsoeuer on
such dayes?

The holy Communion.

21. Haue you a decent Communion Table on a frame, with a seem-
ly Carpet, and a cloth of Linnen, a Communion cuppe and cover of
Silver, a faire Flaggon of Pewter or purer metall for the wine, a
Plate for the Bread, and a Towell to lay ouer it?

22. Whether is there any in your Parish, which being full fiftene
yeeres of age and upwards, hath not receiued the holy Communion three
seuerall times in the yeere past at the least, in his or her Parish Church,
whereof Easter to be one of the three times?

23. Doth your Minister instruct and examine his Parishioners con-
cerning the Sacraments at convenient times, before hee administer the
Communion: And doth he admit any thereto, that cannot say at least the
Lords Prayer, the Articles of the Christian faith, and the tenn Com-
mandements?

24. Is your Communion ministred with Bread and Wine, conse-
crated in such order as in the booke of Common prayer is appoynted?
And doth your Minister deliuer both kindes to euery seuerall Commu-
nicant, with the blessing prescribed in the booke of Common prayer?

25. Doth any in your Parish receiue the holy Communion either
sitting, standing, or otherwise then kneeling, as is prescribed in the
Booke of Common prayer; or doe any refuse to receiue the same knee-
ling; and doth your Minister admitte any so receiue the Communion
otherwise then kneeling?

26. Doth your Minister admitte any notorious offenders, or any
Schismatikes to the holy Communion before due penance enjoyned
by the Ordinarie, be duly performed by them; or doth hee admitte any

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notoriously knowen to be out of charitie; or any that hath done any open wrong to his Neighbour, before reconciliation made to the partie wronged?

27. Whether doth your Minister appoint and observe so many Communiones in one yeere, as that the parishioners may conveniently receiue all of them thre or three severall times in the yeere: And doth he use to give publique notice thereof in the Church, the Sabbath day next going before every such Communion, that the Parishioners may prepare themselves to be partakers thereof?

Baptisme.

28. Have you in your Church a convenient Font of Stone, well kept, and covered, standing in the auncient place; doth your Minister Baptise therein, or in any Bason, or other thing, or with any other ceremonies then such as are allowed in the Booke of common prayer; or doth he omit, neglect, or not use all the ceremonies therein prescribed; and doth he use the signe of the crosse in Baptisme?

29. Doth your Minister refuse to Baptise any Childzen of christian parentes, that are brought to the Church?

30. Are Parents hyed to be present at the Baptising of their Childzen; or be any admitted to be God-fathers or God-mothers that have not receiued the holy Communion; or doe any parentes refuse to haue their Childzen signed with the signe of the Crosse in their baptisme?

31. Have any childzen that were bozne in your parish been carried out of the parish to be Baptised else where; or haue any not been baptised at all, or in places and by parties vnknowne?

32. Whether hath your Minister refused, deferred, or delayed to come vnto, and to christen any Child being in weaknesse or in danger of death, being thereunto required, by reason whereof such Child hath (through his negligence, or by his fault) dyed unbaptized?

Catechisme.

33. Doth your Minister, or his Curate, duely Catechise according to the late Canon euery Sunday, such childzen and seruantes of both sexes, as are of conuenient age, or at least so many of them by course, as the time will serue?

34. Doe Parentes and Householders bring or send their Childzen and Seruants, to the Church euery Sunday duely to be catechized, accordingly as the late Canons require, and who are negligent therein:

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Matrimonie.

35 Whether is Matrimonie solemnized in your Church or Chappell, according to the Booke of Common prayer?

36 Haue you in your Church a Table of Degrees of Marriage; and any married within the degrees of Consanguinity or Affinity therein forbidden; or do any Children under the age of twenty one yeares, contract themselves, or marry without consent of their Parents or Guardians?

37 Haue any bin Married without Banns thise asked in the Church three seuerall Sundapes or Holy-dapes (vnlesse by License of the Ordinary graunted under Seale) or at any time of the day, then betwixt the houres of eight and twelue in the forenoone; or at any times prohibited, that is to say, from Aduent Sunday, to the Octaues of the Epiphany from Septuagesima Sunday, to the Octaues of Easter: from Rogation Sunday, to Trinitie Sunday?

38 Haue any that dwell in your Parish, been married in any other Parish, or any of an other Parish been married in your Parish; or haue any been married privately out of the Church or face of the Congregation, when, where, by whom, and who were present at such Marriages?

39 Hath any Woman not well known to be married, beene deliuered of any Child in your Parish, and in whose house: or hath any Woman in your Parish beene carnally knowen, or begotten with Child before Marriage, and by whom?

40 Haue any forsaken their Wiues or Husbannes, and married others; haue any married againe after they haue beene Diuorced: Or doe any which haue beene Diuorced, keepe company still together?

41 Doe any Married couples liue a sunder and not together, and doe either of them keepe in their house, or secretly resort to any other, to the raising of suspicion or fame of incontinencie?

42 Hath any in your Parish for money or reward, Married any Woman that committed Fornication or Adultery with an other man? Or hath any unmarried Woman begotten with child, gone out of your Parish before she hath done Penitance enioyned her by the Ordinarie; where was she, or is she receiued or harboured, at whose charge, and who conueyed her away?

Visitation of the sicke.

43 Doth your Minister or Curate visite the Sicke, doth he admonish them to repentance, comfort the Penitent, and exhort them to Charitable and almes deeds?

Buriall

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Buriall of the Dead.

44 Are your Dead buried according to the forme of Buriall set downe in the booke of Common prayer; or haue any been buried secretly or in the night, who, and by whom, and who were present therat?

45 Doe the Executors or Administrators, or other friends of them that are buried in Church or Chancell, repaie againe the Pavements, and giue any thing to the Church?

Churching of Women.

46 Doe any Women refuse to giue God thanks openly in the Church, or (as wee terme it) to be Churched at convenient times after Childbirth; or doth any Minister refuse to Church them, or Church them any other wise then is prescribed in the Booke of Common prayer?

47 Hath any Woman unlawfully begotten with Child, been admitted to publique Thanks-giving in the Church, before she hath performed such Penance as was enioyned her by the Ordinary, or at least bene Churched in a White sheete, and confessed her fault penitently before sufficient witnesses, and undertaken to stand to the censures of her Ordinary for her sayd offence?

Parish Clarkes.

48 Haue you a Parish Clarke chosen by the Minister, is he of honest conuersation, hath bee competent skill in reading, writing, and singing: And doth any withhold or detain his Wages or duties from him?

Schoole-Masters.

49 Haue you any Schoole-house, and how is it repayed: And haue you any Schoole-maister in your Parish that teacheth publickely or priuately, is he lawfully licensed; doth hee come duely to the Church and receiue the holy Communion: Doth hee instruct his Schollers in the Catechisme allowed, causeth he them to repaire to diuine Prayers in the Church, and to heare and note Sermons: Teacheth he any other Grammar then that which is allowed?

50 Is any Schoole-maister knowen or suspected publickely or priuately to read to their Schollers, or suffer them to read any Booke that may confirme them in popery, superstition, or disobedience to the Kings Maieste,

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¶ *Paſſiſſe, or to his lawes eccleſiaſticall or ciuill :*

¶ *Schiſmatickes and Recuſantes of all ſores.*

51 Doe you know any that teach or maintaine any doctrine contrary to the Articles agreed vpon in the Conuocation. Anno Dom. 1562.

52 Doth any Preach, miniſter the Communion, baptiſe Children, or church Women in private Houſes, or other where then in the Church, except it be in caſes of neceſſitie :

53 Know you any that abſent themſelues from the Church negligently or wilfully, how long haue they ſo done : And of them that are abſent without a ſufficient and lawfull cauſe, is the forſwytur of rii. d. taken euery Sunday, and conuerter to the uſe of the poore, according to the Statute. Eliza. 1.

54 In your Pariſh where there is a Preacher, doe any vſe to abſent themſelues from his Sermon, and reſort to any other :

55 Know you any that forbear to participate with the Church of England in Prayer or Sacraments, either denying the Church to be Apoſtolicall, or condemning the Ceremonies thereof as ſuperſtitious :

56 Haue you in your Pariſh any popiſh Recuſantes, any halfe Papiftes that come to the Church and receiue not the Communion, any Church Papifts that come and receiue themſelues, but either perſwade others, or maintaine their wiues, children, familie, or friends not to come :

57 Doeth any Seminary Prielt or Ieſuite reſort to any place within this Diocceſſe, or ſuſpect you any ſuch : Or doe you know any that reſort to any popiſh Prielt or Ieſuite :

58 Know you any that by writing, talks, or argument, impugn the Kings Supremacie, or any that haue kept in their cuſtody, that ſell, diſperſe, carie, or deliuer vnto others, any vnlawfull bookes againſt the Religion and Governement eſtabliſhed, or in defence of any forreigne power or domeſticall condition :

Excommunicated perſons.

59 Are all Excommunicate perſons kept out of the Church from Diuine prayers, and receiuing of the holy Communion vntill they bee lawfully abſolued : And are there any in your Pariſh which haue ſtood excommunicate ſourtie dayes and upward : are ſuch perſons as ſtand excommunicated, once in euery ſix moneths denounced in your Church in time of Diuine Service vpon ſome Sunday :

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60 Hath any Excommunicated person not absolved, (at least in his extremities) not giving any testimony of his repentance before his departure, beare buried in Christian burials, who buried him, or of them: where, and when, and who were present at such burials?

61 Doe any retaine any hope in their house of service any person denounced excommunicate, or doe any way encourage them therein, or converse with them in buying, selling, eating, drinking, or otherwise?

Willes, Testaments, and Administrations.

62 Doe any in your parish administer the Goods of the dead, or any way entermiddle therewith, without lawfull authoritie committed unto them under the Ordinaries Sale?

63 Knowe you any in your parish, that suppress the last Will of the Dead; or any that forge or alter any Willes; or any Executors that fulfill not the Testators will; or any that detaine Legacies given to any charitable uses?

Severall Articles.

64 Doe any in your parish prophane the Sabbath dayes, or not duly observe the Holy dayes appointed: Are the Ember-fastes properly observed at the four severall times of the yeere appointed?

65 Are the dayes and orders of Perambulation duly observed in the Rogation weeke: if not in whose default?

66 Are the Canons, Constitutions, and Orders, made and agreed upon in the Convocation house Anno Dom. 1603. read over once every yeere in your Church upon Sundayes or Holy-dayes, according to his Majesties commandement in that behalfe?

67 Doe your Ministers properly present, and give up in writing to the Ordinary the names of all Recusants, and haile Recusants, men and women, as well sojourners as parishioners, and common dwellers in your parish above the age of thirteene yeeres, according to the 14. Canon, or not?

68 Doe any in your parish take upon them to practise Physicke or Chirurgerie, not being lawfully licensed?

69 Are any in your parish (or which were of your parish & are now departed) knownen, suspected, famed, or reported, to have offended in Fornication, Adultery, Incest, Witchcraft, Sozerie, Charmings, Usurie, Swearing, Drunkenness, common Slandering, Sewing of discord, Brawling, Scoulding, or any other uncleanneesse of life, or bad

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manner.

70 Have any Apparitors, or others, taken any reward to compound, or conceal any offence presentable or punishable in the Ecclesiasticall Court?

Churchwardens and Sidemen.

71 Are your Churchwardens and Sidemen chosen peereley in the Easter weeke according to the Canons: And doe the Churchwardens peereley, truly make and deliuer by in writing their account of all their receiues and disbursements whatsoever, by them receiued and layde out for the Parish: and of all the Church goods, Bookes, and other things, as the Canons require?

72 Doe your Churchwardens themselves come suely to the Church to diuine Prayers and Sermons; and doe they their best endeauours, especially on Sundayes and Holydayes, to cause all Parishoners to doe the like?

73 Whether is there a transcript or coppie of the Register booke of the Church of Christnings, Weddings, and Burials, peereley exhibited and deliuered by into the Regestrie of the Diuinarie, or not?

74 Have the late Churchwardens concealed any crime, Offence, or Disorder in their times, and not presented the same: what be the matters so concealed: Or Doe they any trouble, molest, or vex the Minister, Churchwardens, or Sidemen, for being presented by them; and who be they that so doe?

75 Have you aduisedly and diligently perused, read, or heard others reade and peruse this Booke of Articles; and euery particuler Article and branch thereof; and haue you framed your Answeres and Presentments to the same accordingly?

76 Generally, whether doe you know any of the Canons (lately set forth and approued by his Maiestie) broken, or any other Ecclesiasticall matter worthy to be presented, or not; and if you doe, you shall truly present the same by the Day you haue taken?

FINIS.

God saue the King.

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